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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BUTTONWOODS FIRE DISTRICT

June 24, 2008

Buttonwoods Casino

8:00p.m.

The 83rd Annual Meeting of the Buttonwoods Fire District was called to order at 8:05 p.m. Moderator, Mr. Mark McKenney presided.

He offered a warm welcome to the new members of the Community – Mike & Celeste Levesque & Camille Pezza.

Mr. McKenney also reminded the group of the ground rules of the Annual Meeting, and that we hold the meeting primarily to establish the budget, but that the discussion of other issues is welcome.

Reading of the Minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting:

Mr. McKenney called for a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting (2007) that had been available to all taxpayers of the Fire District in advance, and that the reading of the minutes be waived. The reading of the minutes was waived.

Motion to accept minutes passed.

Reports of Buttonwood Fire District Officers

Mr. McKenney called for the reports of the Officers and Supervisors.

Treasurer's Report:

Mr. Joe Suffredini reported that the opening balance was \$153,197. Expenses for the Roads, Casino, and Seawall were reviewed. Ending balance is \$86,672. The Road Reserve is \$0 as \$69,857 was spent in 2007/2008 following the sewer installation. \$24,965 of the \$69,857 was paid from the Unallocated Reserve. There is now a Landscaping Reserve of \$3,344, which was set up with funds received from the Garden Club. The Casino Reserve is at \$6,247. The Seawall Reserve is at \$45,500. The total allocated reserve as of May 31, 2008 is \$31,581. Motion passed to accept report as is.

Tax Assessor's Report:

Mr. Farrell noted the Tax Rate determined by the Board of Tax Assessors for 2007/2008 was \$0.96 per \$1,000.00 of real estate.

The Chapel, the Buttonwoods Fire District (BFD), and the Buttonwoods Beach Association (BBA) are exempt from taxation by the BFD. The BFD and the BBA are subject to Warwick City taxes whereas the Chapel is not. With no questions the report was accepted as submitted.

Tax Collector's Report:

Mr. Farrell reported that the total taxes collected through May 31, 2008 were \$89,012. In addition \$51 was collected between June 1 and

June 24. He also noted that there was only \$361 in un-paid taxes. With no questions the report was accepted as submitted.

Auditor's Report:

Copies of Mr. Alibrandi's Audit report were distributed to attendees. The report noted that Mr. Alibrandi had thoroughly reviewed the financial procedures and policies with the Treasurer, Tax Assessor, Tax Collector and Casino Committee Treasurer. He acknowledged that they are qualified and conscientious in handling the Fire District's money and that the reports present a true picture of the community's financial condition. After no questions there was a motion to adopt the report. The motion was accepted.

Clerk's Report:

Patricia Wegrzyn reported that she received no correspondence during the year.

Supervisors' Report:

Senior Supervisor, Bob Remick, presented his report, which included the following news:

- Since the last annual meeting the following major projects have been completed: sewer lines, road resurfacing, and the Casino porch, landscaping and walkways**
- Using Karen Way's design the Casino entrance walkway has been upgraded and a new flag pole installed**
- Trash – Fencing has been installed and Brigid Flaherty and Angie Marcks continue as trash czars**

- New light switches have been installed to minimize inappropriate use of the Casino circuit breakers
- Speed bumps were replaced
- Catch basin and manholes were cleaned and photographed internally for measuring deterioration
- Please refrain from posting items on the new entrance signs
- With the sewer completion we can concentrate on tree evaluation and replacement
- Bill Ross received a round of applause for his good work and generosity related to grounds maintenance.
- Preventative maintenance of the seawall on the corner of Promenade and Hemlock was performed
- Professional Security Systems has been rehired for entrance guard services
- BFD supervisors may be notified of illegal activities but residents are encouraged to call the police regarding safety issues or recurring violations.

Lastly, Bob addressed the 4th of July bonfire noting that additional safeguards were being implemented in an effort to preserve this legacy family event. Residents will be posted at the entrance and participant conduct will be monitored. If there is a repeat of last year's activity and behavior this year the event may have to cease.

With no questions, the report was accepted as submitted.

Reports of BFD Committees

Casino Committee:

Kathy Falaguerra reported that she would again be co-chairing the committee with Claire Flaherty. Rich Conti is on for his 9th year as Steward. Thanks to Sue Remick and her committee for organizing the Cocktail Classic. Funds will be used for Casino improvements. Bowling begins on July 8th with Doug Rademacher as Chair. Tennis for children and adults will be on Thursdays. Wednesday will be Arts, and Thursday morning is adult only coffee and crafts. Tuesday mornings will be Toddler Time. Theater Camp will end with a Children's Play on July 18th. Defibrillator training will be held July 8th.

2008 events will include the traditional Fourth of July celebration with Flag dedication, Bowling and Beers night, Adult Cocktails on the Point, and the Steak Fry.

The report of the Casino Committee was accepted.

Casino Preservation Committee:

Ken Mason read David Falaguerra's report noting that the committee's objectives had been completed:

- New roof**
- New wiring, light fixtures and electric upgrade**
- Fire sprinkler and alarm system**

- **Painting and floor refinishing**

Thanks to Karen Way and Bill Ross for the sidewalk replacement and grounds landscaping.

The Committee requested a \$6,000 budget appropriation on the assumption that the building will need to be painted in two to three years at an estimate of \$20-\$25k.

With no questions the report was accepted as submitted.

Tennis Committee:

Ray Way reported that the Saturday morning league and Sunday round robin matches are under way. The Tennis Committee is again subsidizing the children and adult tennis lessons organized by the Casino committee. Contributions from Play N Pay in 2007 totaled approximately \$2,700. This money is spent on the youth tennis program, repairs to the hard courts, new nets and equipment, maintenance of the clay court watering system, and landscaping. A financial report is available for review.

Reports of Other Community Committees (non BFD)

Buttonwood Beach Association – Hope Dillon:

She reminded the group that BBA is a non profit corporation owned by the shareholder residents of Buttonwoods. Shares are available for \$50 to all property holders who are full time residents with more than two years in duration. She also reminded the group that the BBA owns most of the common land in Buttonwoods and that there is no interest the sale of any land. The BBA is generally favorably disposed to individual home owners wishing to improve their property and often the BBA owned land as well – providing the BBA grants written permission in advance of the improvements. The following provisions must be met:

- All contiguous neighbors must approve of the proposed investments**
- The improvements must be in harmony with the interest of the community**
- The homeowner must understand that the improvements are on BBA property, which will remain BBA property.**

Without questions the report was accepted.

Buttonwood Chapel Committee:

Kathy Gilman reported that we will be celebrating the 125 year old milestone of the Chapel this year. The celebration will include a Memorabilia Exhibit and Continental Breakfast on July 4th.

2008 events include: Egg Hunt, Summer Youth Service (including a musical history of the chapel), an Interfaith Service and 5 weddings.

With the completion of the sewer installations the committee has started to improve the Chapel landscaping.

Mark McKenney thanked Kathy and noted that she personifies the kind of spirit the community values.

Reading of Communications: - There were no communications in 2007 / 2008.

New Business:

Budget Presentation and Resolution 2008 - 2009

Ken Mason presented the 2008 budget and resolution, which called for a total budget of \$89,512 – an increase of 1.9% vs. the prior year. Most of the proposed budgets were consistent with the 2007-2008 spending with a few exceptions. There are increases in the Casino Improvements, Maintenance and Operating Expense line items and a decrease in utilities. This results in a net \$1,080 increase. The Grounds budget is down \$2,900 due to reductions in Field Cutting and Tree Management. There is a slight increase in Directors and Officers Insurance. The Roads budget has increased \$1,500. This includes Paving and Engineering, which has been increased to \$6,500

per year on the assumption of a 20 year life on the roads. No global warming is anticipated in the upcoming year, which translates into a Snow Plowing budget increase. To offset the Paving and Engineering increase the Sea Wall budget has been reduced as the seawall is in good condition.

Doug Rademacher asked about the reduction of the Casino utilities budget. Mr. Mason responded that past expenses included the sewer connection and water line to the Casino, which were non-recurring items. Mr. Dickerman asked how the supervisors would address tree needs given the grounds and tree expense reductions. Mr. Mason noted that we need help with the tree management plan. Mrs. Dickerman asked about the Playground budget, which Mr. Mason noted was for mulch replacement.

Lastly, Merry Sackett inquired about access to the beach given the new seawalls. Bob Remick noted that with volunteer money the steps and ramp can be replaced at 10th Avenue. Bill Ross pointed out that there any replacements to access ramps and vegetation must be completed within full compliance of CRMC regulations.

A 5 minute recess was taken.

Budget Acceptance and Resolution:

The budget was then accepted. Three resolutions were read by Mr. Farrell - Budget Resolution for \$89,512, Tax Resolution and the Tax

**Anticipation Borrowing Resolution - not to exceed \$20,000
(authorization for Treasurer to borrow funds).**

All three resolutions were approved.

**Report of the Nominating Committee: Bob Remick on behalf of Judy
Taton**

**The following names are hereby placed in nomination for the offices
and terms stated:**

**For Supervisors, for a three year term, from this date to the BFD
annual meeting three years hence in June, 2011 – William Foley.**

For one year terms, from this date to the BFD annual meeting in 2009:

For Moderator – Mark McKenney

For Clerk – Patricia Wegrzyn McGreen

For Treasurer – Joseph Suffredini

For Tax Assessors – John Farrell, David Dickerman, Steven Marcks

For Tax Collector – John Farrell

**Accepted as above. Bob Remick will chair the Nominating Committee
for 2009.**

Election of Officers and Supervisors: Mark McKenney

Board of Supervisors: Ken Mason - Sr. Supervisor

Deb Taylor - Supervisor

William Foley – New Supervisor

Ratification of Acts of Officers and Supervisors:

The Officers will be as above. All were elected and the Clerk cast a single ballot for the slate. The motion passed. The ratification of the acts of the officers was passed.

Mark McKenney thanked Bob Remick for his three years as Supervisor and Ken Mason presented Bob with a gift certificate. Lastly, Bob thanked Joe Suffredini for his efforts and dedication.

Call for Adjournment

Motion to adjourn accepted. The meeting adjourned at 9:10p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Wegrzyn McGreen